

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 9, 2003

The Honorable Ralph Regula  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations  
Appropriations Committee  
2358 Rayburn Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Regula:


We are writing to request that you provide an appropriation of \$610 million for the Minority AIDS Initiative in the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2004.

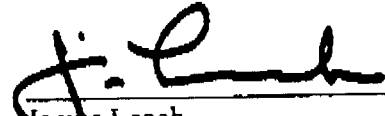
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, African Americans account for 49% of new AIDS cases, although only 12% of the population is black. Hispanics account for 19% of new AIDS cases, although only 14% of the population is Hispanic. Furthermore, African American children represent 65% of pediatric AIDS cases and Hispanic children represent 15%. While Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders and Native Americans reportedly account for approximately 1% of new AIDS cases, under-reporting, the lack of detailed HIV surveillance, and misclassification often hide the true impact of the epidemic for these communities. Clearly, racial and ethnic minorities shoulder the burden of HIV and AIDS in the United States today.

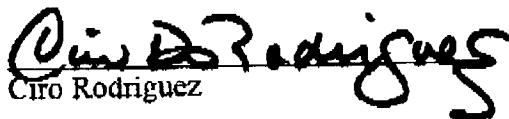
Although these statistics are merely a snapshot of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, they demonstrate the importance of the Minority AIDS Initiative. This Initiative provides funds to community-based organizations, research institutions, minority-serving colleges and universities, health care organizations, state and local health departments, and correctional institutions to help them address the HIV/AIDS epidemic within the minority populations they serve. Thus, it enables organizations and providers to expand and strengthen their capacity to deliver culturally and linguistically appropriate care and services. As a result, the Initiative fills gaps in prevention, treatment, surveillance, infrastructure, outreach and education across communities of color.

We urge you to provide \$610 million for the Minority AIDS Initiative in fiscal year 2004. We thank you for your attention to our concerns, and we look forward to working with you to expand programs for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS in minority communities throughout the United States.

Sincerely,

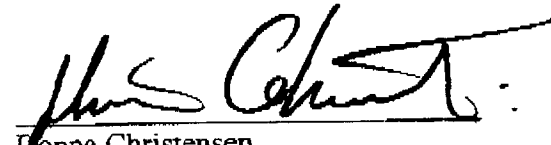
  
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James Leach

  
Ciro Rodriguez


  
Ilana Ros-Lehtinen

  
David Wu


  
Donna Christensen

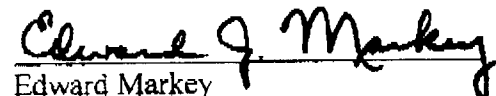
  
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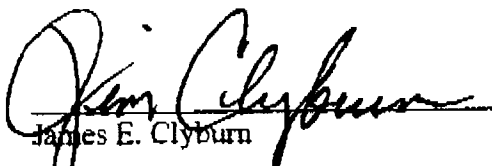
  
Michael Honda

  
Jim McDermott

  
Barbara Lee

  
Dale Kildee

  
Edward Markey

  
James E. Clyburn

  
Eleanor Holmes Norton


  
Chaka Fattah

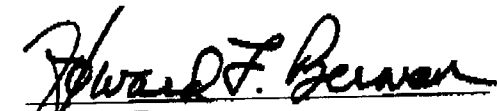
  
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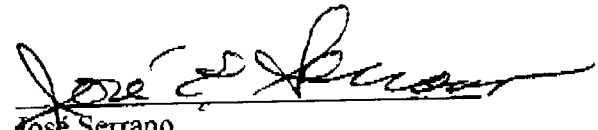
  
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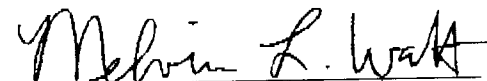
  
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Michael McNulty

  
Howard Berman


  
Jose Serrano

  
Martin Meehan

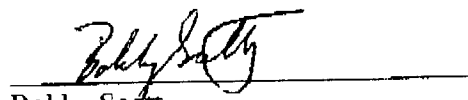
  
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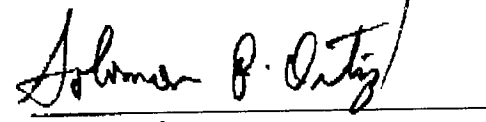
  
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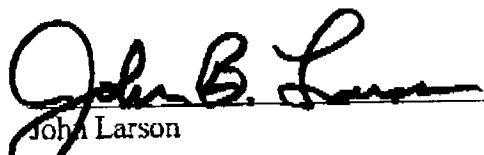
  
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Lynn Woolsey

  
Eni Faleomavaega

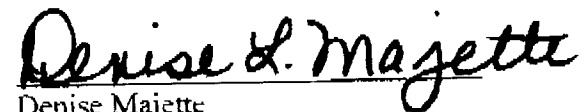
  
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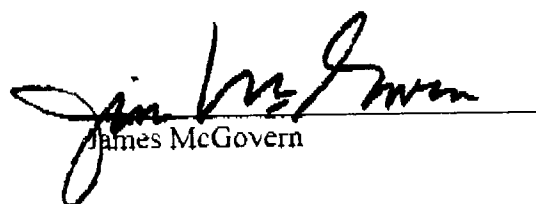
  
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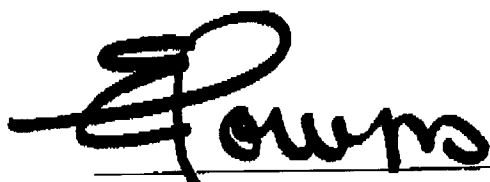
  
Susan Davis

  
Michael Capuano

  
Denise Majette

  
James McGovern

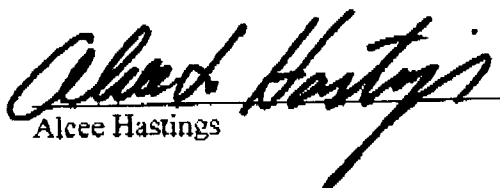
  
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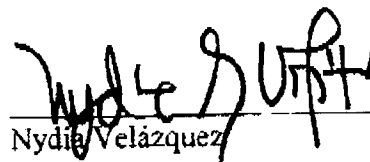
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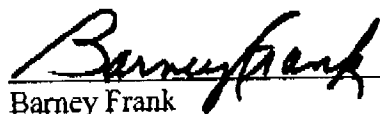
Bernard Sanders



Alcee Hastings



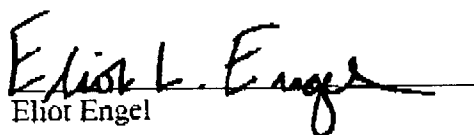
Nydia Velázquez



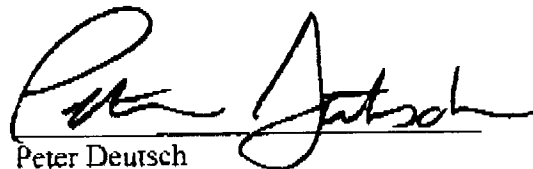
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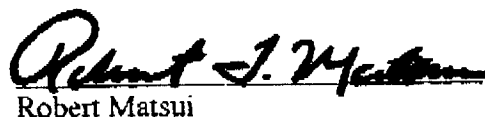
Eliot Engel



Peter Deutsch



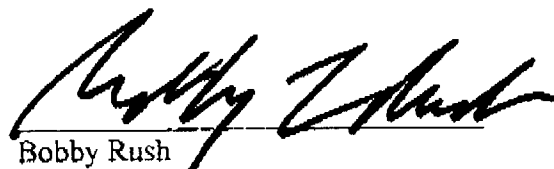
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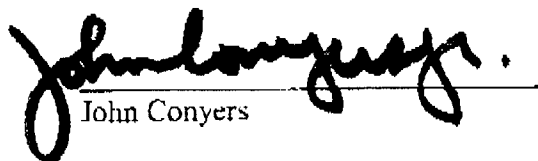
Robert Matsui



Tom Lantos



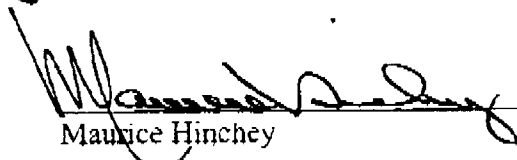
Bobby Rush



John Conyers



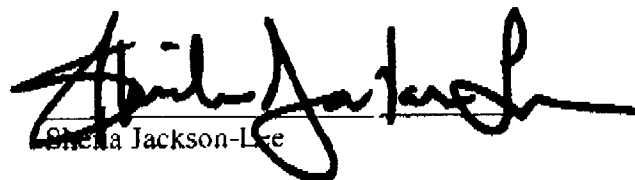
Bob Filner



Maurice Hinchey



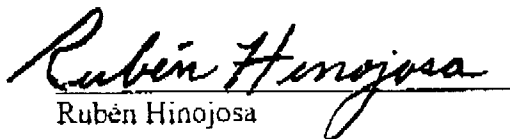
Bennie Thompson



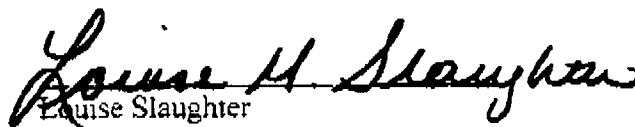
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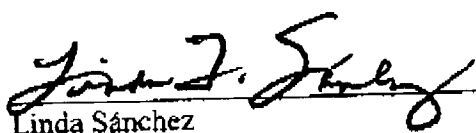
Corrine Brown

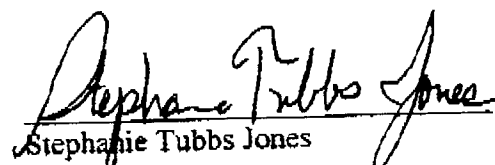


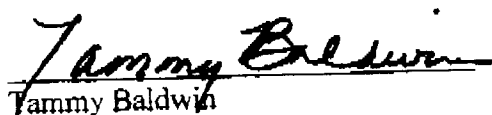
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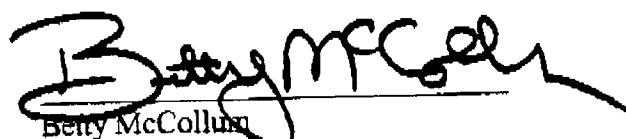


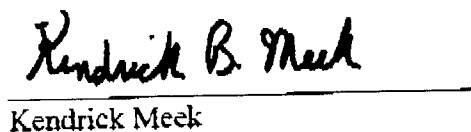
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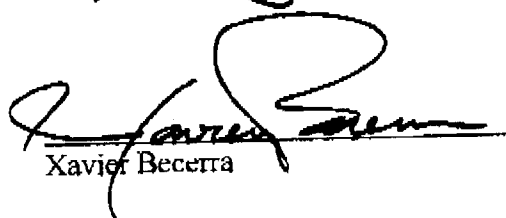
  
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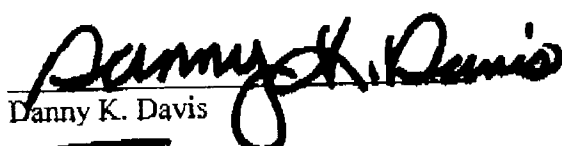
  
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Tammy Baldwin

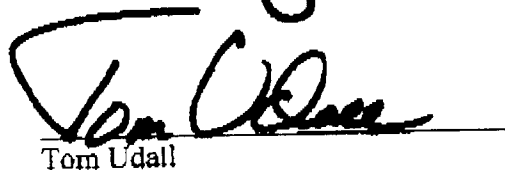
  
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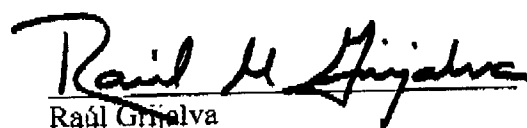
  
Kendrick Meek

  
Xavier Becerra

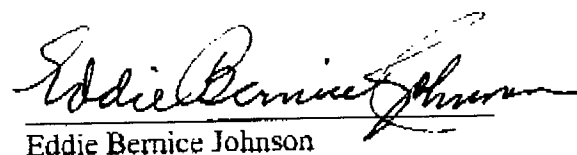
  
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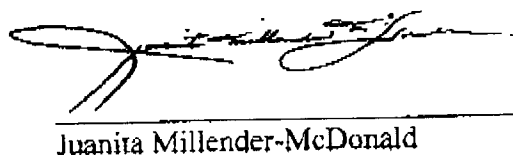
  
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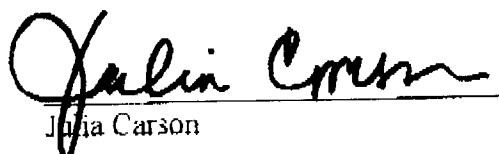
  
Raúl Grijalva

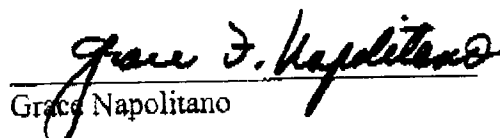
  
Neil Abercrombie

  
Eddie Bernice Johnson

  
Juanita Millender-McDonald

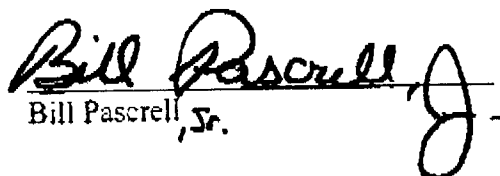
  
Silvestre Reyes

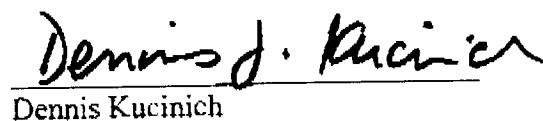
  
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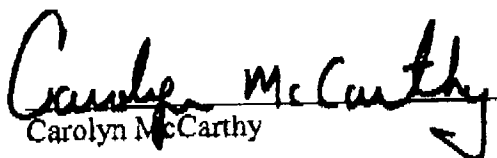
  
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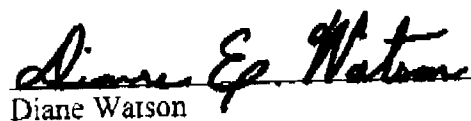
  
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Gregory Meeks

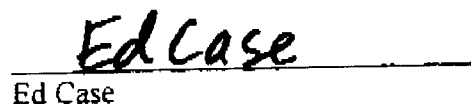
  
Bill Pascrell, Jr.

  
Dennis Kucinich

  
Carolyn McCarthy

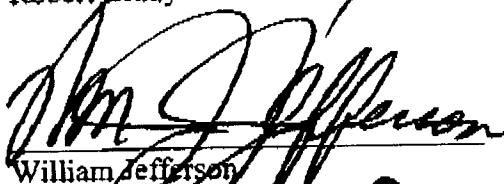
  
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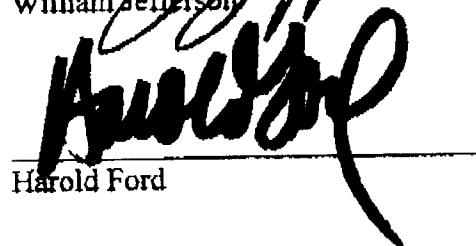
  
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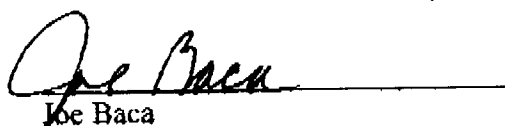
  
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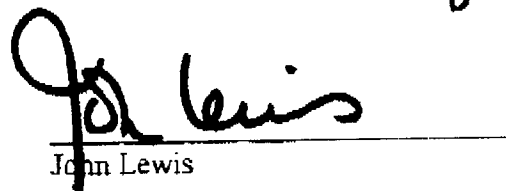
  
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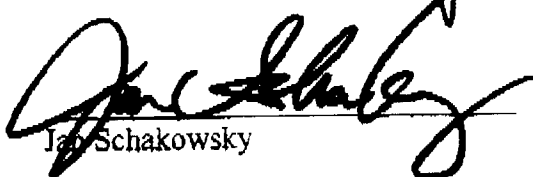
  
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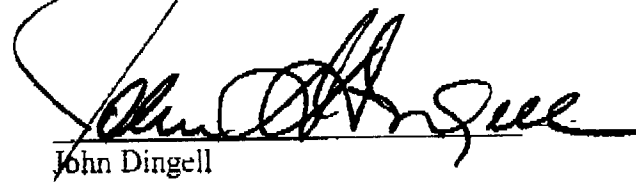
  
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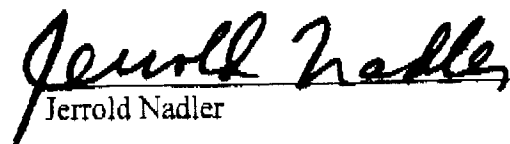
  
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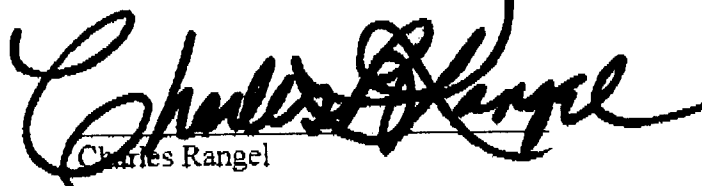
  
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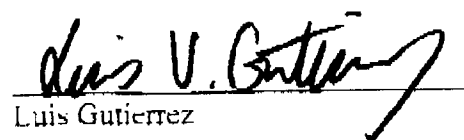
  
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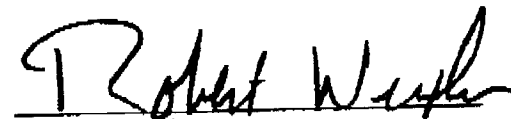
  
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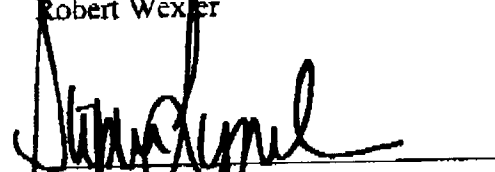
  
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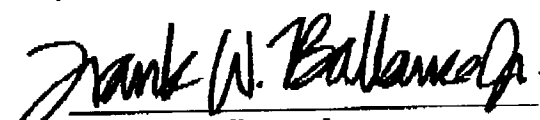
  
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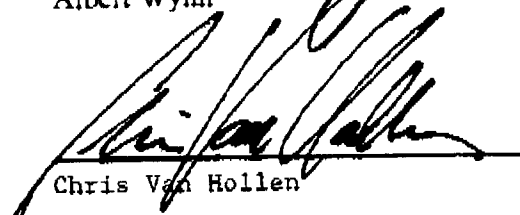
  
Frank W. Ballance, Jr.

  
David Scott

  
Joseph Hoeffel

  
Albert Wynn

  
Wm. Lacy Clay

  
Chris Van Hollen

cc: Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr.